

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

selecting and accessing information or services by touching hyperlinked items on a physical document, said method for use in a user system includes the steps of:

- identifying a physical document, said physical document comprising at least one page;
- identifying a page of said physical document, said page comprising one or a plurality of predefined hyperlinked items;
- identifying position of hyperlinked items comprised in said identified page referring to a hyperlink table associated with said identified document, said hyperlink table comprising for each page of the document, a list of hyperlink items, and for each hyperlink item, an indication of its position on said page; and
- sending for visualization on an opto-touch foil, the position of said hyperlinked items, said opto-touch foil being connected to the user system.

2. The method according to claim 1, comprising the further steps of:

- determining the position of a point pressed on said opto-touch foil; said opto-touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical document; each one of hyperlinked items on said page corresponding to a visualized position on said opto-touch foil ; said opto-touch

foil being pressed at a point corresponding to a selected hyperlinked item;

- identifying the selected hyperlinked item corresponding to the position of the point pressed on said opto-touch foil referring to the hyperlink table, said hyperlink table comprising an indication of the position of each hyperlinked item on the identified page;
- identifying and locating information or service associated with the selected hyperlinked item referring to the hyperlink table, said hyperlink table comprising for each hyperlinked item of each page of the document the identification and location of the information or service associated with the hyperlinked item; and
- accessing the information or service associated with the selected hyperlinked item.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said user system is connected to a communication network comprising one or plurality of servers, and wherein the information or services associated with the hyperlinked items are located on said one or plurality of servers or locally on the user system.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information or services associated with the hyperlinked items are located on the user system.

5. The method according to claim 1, claims comprising the further step of:

- accessing the hyperlink table associated with the identified physical document .

6. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the step of identifying and locating information or service associated with the selected hyperlinked item referring to said hyperlink table comprises the step of:

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- determining a destination address in the communication network where the information or service associated with the selected hyperlinked item can be accessed referring to said hyperlink table .

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein:

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- said communication network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network;
 - said servers are Web servers;
 - said user system comprises a Web browser;
 - said destination address is an Uniform Resource Locator (URL address);
 - said information or service are Web pages.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the physical document is a hard-copy document or any type of physical surface such as an engraved, printed, painted, written surface, of any material such as paper, wood, plastic and of any form such as a newspaper, magazine, book, catalog, geographical map, photograph, painting.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein a hyperlinked item on a physical document corresponds to a word, a letter, an icon, a graphic, a symbol, a mark or any other sign printed, engraved, written or painted on the physical document.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hyperlink table associated with the document comprises additional information

related to said document such as title, author, date and wherein the method comprises the further step of :

- accessing said additional information.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the identified page is a portion said physical document.

12. A user system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

13. A system comprising:

- an opto-touch foil to be placed over or under a page of a physical document;
- a user system according to claim 12;
- a connection between said opto-touch foil and said user system.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the opto-touch foil is sensible to the pressure exercised over any point and comprises a transparent film with light emitting elements for visualizing selected positions on its surface.

15. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

16. A method comprising:

creating hyperlinks, by touching hyperlinked items on a physical document, for use in a user system, including the steps of:

- creating an hyperlink table for a physical document ; said physical document comprising one or a plurality of pages;

- receiving and storing in said hyperlink table an identification of the physical document; and

for each page of said physical document:

- receiving and storing in said hyperlink table an identification of the page and an identification of hyperlinked items defined by the user on said page;
- receiving and storing in said hyperlink table identification and location of information or service associated with each defined hyperlinked item;
- determining the position of points pressed on a opto-touch foil ; said opto-touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the page of the physical document; said opto-touch foil being pressed at points corresponding to the position of said defined hyperlinked items; and
- storing the position of the points pressed in the hyperlink table, said hyperlink table comprising for each hyperlinked item, an indication of its position on the page.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said user system is connected to a communication network comprising one or plurality of servers, and wherein the information or services associated with the hyperlinked items are located on said one or plurality of servers .

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the information or services associated with the hyperlinked items are located on the user system.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of storing in said hyperlink table an identification within the

communication network of information or service associated with each hyperlinked item comprises the step of:

- storing a destination address in the communication network where the information or service associated with the hyperlinked item can be accessed.

20. The method according to claim 16, wherein:

- said communication network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network;
- said servers are Web servers;
- said user system comprises a Web browser;
- said destination address is an Uniform Resource Locator (URL address);
- said information or service are Web pages.

21. The method according to any one of claims 16 to 20 wherein the physical document is a hard-copy document or any type of physical surface such as an engraved, printed, painted, written surface, of any material such as paper, wood, plastic and of any form such as a newspaper, magazine, book, catalog, geographical map, photograph, painting.

22. The method according to claim 16, wherein an item on a physical document is a word, a letter, an icon, a graphic, a symbol, a mark or any other sign.

23. The method according to claim 16, comprising the further step of:

- storing in the hyperlink table additional information related to said document such as title, author, date.

24. The method according to claim 16, wherein each page is a portion of said physical document.

25. An user system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 16.

26. A system comprising:

- an opto-touch foil to be placed over or under a page of a physical document;
- a user system according to the preceding claim; and
- a connection between said opto-touch foil and said user system.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein the opto-touch foil is sensible to the pressure exercised over any point and comprises a transparent film with light emitting elements for visualizing selected positions on its surface.

28. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out the method according to claim 16.

29. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing selection and access of information or services, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 1.

30. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing creation of hyperlinks, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising

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computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
effect the steps of claim 16.

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